PY W8722.1 1982

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DICK THORNBURGH, GOVERNOR

PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION FOR WOMEN
HELEN SEAGER, Director

Box 1323
Harrisburg, PA 17105
717 787 8128

Dear Friends,

One day in 1982 when I was in Pittsburgh looking into the problems many women have in finding decent housing for their families, there was a call to my office from Women in Community Service, an association of four volunteer women's groups which had a contract for Job Corps training for young women. Their Harrisburg office had run out of volunteers and was in danger of being closed down. We put them in touch with Karen Best, president of the Junior League of Harrisburg, a community service organization of volunteers. It was a good match. The program was saved, we learned from the thanks expressed by a member of the board.

Many individuals call or write for guidance when they feel they have suffered discrimination because of sex. A widow who had been caring for her husband through a long, agonizing and impoverishing illness was referred to us by another agency in government. She needed income, moral support, a helping hand. Our staff listened, gave her support group numbers, a booklet on job hunting for homemakers and called a supporting agency in her neighborhood. We think she is on her way.

Another call came from a woman who had an adult invalid daughter. The divorce settlement imposed on her was damaging both to her and to her daughter. The special property settlement she needed is specifically provided for in the law. The Commission staff worked with local agencies to give her the support she needed to appeal. An appeal is now underway.

A handicapped woman was in a construction trade apprenticeship program but was not being given work to do, work she was qualified to do. She told the Commission staff she was being harassed in a number of ways. We got in touch with the state and local agencies with the authority to intervene, and the woman is now working successfully as a carpenter.

Some cases of discrimination seem to resist solution. The Commission gave one victim information on all possible avenues of relief, but still the situation did not improve. Even though it took a lot of time and money, she took her job discrimination complaint to court, and won. Fairness prevailed that time.

Unfortunately, people are still treated unfairly now and then. The Commission does not have the power to investigate or to regulate. But we never say "No" when someone is in trouble. We provide information. We refer to an appropriate agency. We help people sort out the problems so that they can know how to help themselves. I'm happy to be able to tell you that a lot of people got this kind of helping hand in 1982.

Sincerely,

Helen Seager

Commission Worked With These and Others in 1982

Department of Aging
Department of Agriculture
Department of Education
Department of Commerce
Department of Community Affairs
Department of General Services
Department of Health
Department of State
Department of Labor and Industry
Department of Public Welfare
Department of Transportation
State Library
Office of the President
Historical and Museum Commission
The Pennsylvania State University
University of Pennsylvania
Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor
State Police
Shippensburg State College
Indiana University of Pennsylvania
Capital Area Intermediate Unit
PSEBB
Insurance Department
Minority Business Administration
Public Utility Commission
Equal Employment Opportunity Commission
Civil Service Commission
Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission
Pennsylvania Council of Republican Women
Pennsylvania Council on the Arts
Pennsylvania Council on the Humanities
Governor's Housing Task Force
Vocational-Technical Schools
News Media
Women in the Arts
Pennsylvania Public Television Network
Intercounty Prevention Council
American Business Women's Association
Monday Club
CONTACT Telephone Ministry
Christian Churches United
Republican State Committee
Democratic State Committee
Pennsylvania School Boards Association
Girl Scouts
Elizabethtown College
Dickinson College
Gettysburg College
Reading Area Community College
Harrisburg Area Community College
Harrisburg Academy
Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape
Pennsylvania Council on Family Relations
Governor's Energy Council
American Association of University Women
Family Planning Association of Pennsylvania
Hemlock Girl Scout Council
League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania
Lutheran Coalition on Public Policy
National Association of Social Workers, PENNSYLVANIA Chapter
National Council of Catholic Women, Harrisburg Diocese
National Council of Jewish Women
Pennsylvania Association of Extension Home Economists
Pennsylvania Association of Hospital Auxiliaries
Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Mayor's Commission for Women, Philadelphia
Blue Birds
Unitarian Church, Pittsburgh
Daughters of the American Revolution
Capital Campus, Penn State University
Bureau of Corrections
PA Labor Relations Board
Salvation Army
Bethlehem Haven For Women
Governor's Council on the Hispanic Community
Governor's Council on Sexual Minorities
Governor's Action Center
Governor's Heritage Affairs Advisory Commission
Wilson College
Lehigh University
School Equity Division of PDE, Bureau of School Improvement
Economic Development Committee of Cabinet
Human Resources Committee of Cabinet
Bureau of Job Service
State Board of Education
Montgomery County Intermediate Unit
Chester County Intermediate Unit #24
Academy of Medical Arts and Business
Erie Council of Women's Organization
Dept. of Health, Division of Maternal Child Health
Bureau of Affirmative Action
Bureau of Historic Preservation, Historical & Museum Commission
PA Apprenticeship & Training Division
Governor's Special Grant Program
State Employment & Training Council
Office of Employment Security—Research & Statistic Division
Soroptimist International
Executive Women's Council
Friendship Place
PA Rural Housing Coalition
PA State Association of Township Supervisors
Housing Association of the Delaware Valley
Carna Brothers, Inc.
Dept. of Banking
Citizens Savings Association
Improved Dwelling for Alliance
U.S. Dept. of Housing & Urban Development
Cultural Inc.
Carpenter's District Council
Lehigh County Board of Commissioners
Berks County Planning Commission
Beacon Construction Co.
Specialized Housing Development Corp.
Hard Hatted Women
American Civil Liberties Union
City of Allentown Human Relations Commission
Stonegate Associates
Trumbull Corporation
Midwest National Bank
Citizens Scholarship Foundation of America
Women in Community Service/Job Corps
PA Bankers Association
PA Savings League
Mutual Savings Bank Association of PA
PA Builders Association
PA Association of Realtors, Inc.
Philadelphia Mortgage Bankers Association
Pennsylvanians for Effective Government
American Society for Women Accountants

Benedictine Sisters of Erie
Behrend College—Women's Adult Program
Florence Crittenton Auxiliary (Erie)
Hamot Medical Center Aid Society
Insurance Women of Erie
Legislative Reference Bureau
House of Representatives
Senate
Carlow College
Bryn Mawr College
Office of Councilwoman Joan Specter, Philadelphia
Office of Councilwoman Elizabeth Verfenstein, New Castle
Cedar Crest College
Seton Hill college
PA Law Journal Reporter
National Federal Election Commission
PA Rural Electric Association
PA Nurses Association
Juvenile Justice Center
Eagleton Institute of Politics
Center for the American Woman & Politics (Rutgers University)
Professional Secretaries International
Zetta Clubs
PA Commission for Community Colleges
Community College of Allegheny County
Community College of Beaver County
Delaware County Community College
Bucks County Community College
Butler County Community College
Radnor Women's Resource Center
Scranton Women's Resource Center
Lancaster YWCA
Lehigh County Community College
Williamsport Area Community College
Montgomery County Community College
Community College of Philadelphia
Northampton County Community College
Westmoreland County Community College
Villa Maria College
Gannon College
Moravian College
National Women's Education Fund
National Women's Political Caucus
National BPW
Pennsylvania Home Economics Association
Pennsylvania Legal Services Center
Pennsylvania Medical Society Auxiliary
Governor's Task Force on Women and Addiction
Planned Parenthood—Pennsylvania Affiliates
United Way of Pennsylvania
Young Women's Christian Association
PA State College and University Women's Consortium
Governor's Housing Task Force
The Harrisburg Urban Semester
Offices of Mental Retardation, Children, Youth, Families, and Mental Health, DPW
Juvenile Court Judges Commission
Department of Justice
Women's Centers
Pennsylvania NOW
Women for Racial & Economic Equality
Washington University, St. Louis
Attorney General's Office
New Directions for Women
American Jewish Congress

Pomeroy's, Inc.
Pittsburgh Working Women
Small Business Administration
International Ladies Garment Workers Union
Washingtonpark Area Medical Foundation
Redevelopment Authority of Wayne County
Crown Real Estate & Management
Urban League of Pittsburgh
Women's Resource Center of Pittsburgh YWCA
Oakland Women's Resource Center
Program for Female Offenders
Housing Dept., City of Pittsburgh
Better Community Services, Inc
Women In Community Development
Pittsburgh Feminist Network
Joint State Government Commission
Legislative Reapportionment Commission
DPW Office of Social Programs
Commission on Charitable Organizations
Job Advisory Service
Monroe County Human Services
Allegheny County Center for Victims of Violent Crime
Pittsburgh Action Against Rape
Women's Center & Shelter of Pittsburgh
Women's Way
Women's Law Project
NOW Legal Defense & Education Fund
Economic Development Council of Northeast PA
Women's Resource Center of Monroe County
New Horizons for Homemakers, East Stroudsburg
Scranton Women's Center
Scranton Women's Resource Center
Economic Opportunity Cabinet
Wyoming County Housing Authority
Housing Authority of City of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh City Council
Action Housing of Pittsburgh
Cooperative Extension Service of the Penn State University
National Association of Commissions for Women
Pennsylvania Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc.
Pennsylvania Federation of Democratic Women
GFWC Pennsylvania Federation of Women's Clubs
Pennsylvania Elected Women's Association
Bureau of Employment, ODA
Children's Family Center
Mortgage Bankers Association
Life Management Associates
Pittsburgh Mayor's Task Force on Women in Renaissance II
Women's Institute for Housing & Community Development
Sperry—New Holland
Women's Program—Lutheran Settlement House
Harrisburg City Council
Hillside/Hilltop Senior Citizens Center
Financial Resources Management
Professional Secretaries, Inc
PA Federation of Teachers
Coalition of Labor Union Women
Women's Alliance for Job Equity

—To Accomplish—

Housing

Impact on Governor's Housing Task Force, with attention to special shelter needs of women—women who are poor, women heads of households, women and their children seeking safety from domestic violence, women as single parents meeting no-children barriers in rental housing. Personal testimony was heard at Commission-sponsored roundtable meetings at opposite ends of the state, both Pittsburgh and Northeastern Pennsylvania. In concert with other state agencies and citizens.

Job Training

Increased effectiveness of job training for women in poverty as result of the compilation and dissemination throughout state of the experience gained in seven years of CETA-funded effort helping poor women to self-sufficiency.

Fairness

Help toward solution of personal discrimination for hundreds of Pennsylvania women, through information and referral where appropriate.

Prevention

Direction established for availability of state of the art techniques in prevention, in concert with many state agencies.

Protection of Elderly

Focus on the special burden on elderly women as victims in Governor's Task Force on Elderly Crime Prevention, in concert with other state agencies.

Self-Help

Centers for displaced homemakers ready for job training at area vocational technical schools in a dozen locations in the state, outcome of effort in Task Force on Displaced Homemakers.

The Commission Provides These Resources for Pennsylvanians

PUBLICATIONS

WOMENEWS. Published bi-monthly. News of legislation, organizations and Commission activities of concern to women. Circulation: leaders of women's organizations, government offices, individuals, by request.

MARCH TO EQUALITY. Women in Pennsylvania's 300 Year History, 1982. A 40-page historical account of drive for equal citizenship.

IMPACT OF THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT. Revised 1982. What has happened as a result of the state ERA passed in 1971.

NOT FOR FUN, NOT FOR PROFIT: Strategies for ending Sexual Harassment on the Job, 1981. Resource with appendixes for management, unions, employees.

THE HOMEMAKER'S JOB HUNTING GUIDE, revised 1982. Resources.

WOMEN'S CREDIT HANDBOOK, revised 1980. Guide to credit rights.

PENNSYLVANIA DIVORCE LAW 1980, 1981. 1981. Ten pages of information on the divorce code which replaced the code of 1812.

HELP FOR THE RAPE VICTIM, revised 1980. Resource guide for providing aid to victims of rape.

DO YOU KNOW A HOMEMAKER WHO IS SEPARATED, WIDOWED, DIVORCED, UNDEREMPLOYED OR STRUGGLING? 1982. Brochure on situation of displaced homemakers.

For March to Equality send name, address and $2.00 to Commission.

All other publications: for single copy, send first class postage for 2 ounces with name and address to Commission. For bulk copies, write or call Commission

MULTI-MEDIA RESOURCES

WHY NOT A WOMAN? 26-minute 16mm film or ¾" videocassette. Deals with women in nontraditional occupations; interviews women, personnel officers, supervisors.

IT'S HER FUTURE, 17-minute 16mm film or ¾" videocassette. Focuses on high school girls in nontraditional vocational education. Produced by Commission for Women. Available from Education Development Center, 55 Chapel St., Newton, MA 02160.

UNDER HIS THUMB, 11 minute ¾" videocassette on sexual harassment.

Summary of Legislation of Interest to Women

During the 166th and 166th sessions of the Pennsylvania General Assembly, the Commission for Women monitored 425 House Bills or Resolutions and 246 Senate Bills or Resolutions. A total of 4,386 Bills and Resolutions were introduced in the two houses during these sessions, 2,742 in the House and 1,656 in the Senate. Of the 671 Bills and Resolutions followed and reported in WOMENews, 51 were enacted into law.

Following is a synopsis of many of these bills, including the Act number assigned to them.

BUSINESS/FINANCE/INSURANCE

SB 608, which allows policy holders at least ten days to examine certain contracts, is now Act 1981-116. Several bills reported under Health also involve insurance.

CHILDREN

Of the many bills relating to children, two significant ones became law. SB 148, Act 1982-185, the Child Protective Services Law, provides for the expansion of the definition of "abused child" to include "neglect of children" among its several provisions. HB 1780, Act 1982-174, is the Adoption Reform Act. This law eliminates the 6 month waiting period for the voluntary relinquishment of parental consent for adoption.

CONSUMER

SB 306, Act 1982-68, includes regulation of credit cards in the Goods and Services Installment Sales Act.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

SB 1081, Act 1982-84, includes rape among the crimes for which mandatory criminal sentences are prescribed. HB 1684, Act 1982-326, originally provided mandatory sentences for rape and other crimes, but was amended and used as a vehicle to provide for other judicial procedures instead.

DIVORCE/DOMESTIC RELATIONS

HB 523, Act 1981-53 and HB 524, Act 1981-54, both amend real estate tax law to provide for property sales following divorce. Act 14 further defines "document" under the Realty Transfer Act to exclude certain transfers between ex spouses. Act 53 further restricts the power to levy real estate transfer taxes on transactions between former spouses until three months following final divorce decree. SB 124, Act 1981-115, created the presumption that joint or shared custody of children after divorce was in the best interests of the child.

HB 696, Act 1981-173, provides for summary criminal contempt proceedings for persons who willfully fail to comply with lawful support orders. Failure to support had previously been treated as a civil action.

Two important bills affecting domestic relations failed to pass the General Assembly: HB 2141 would have consolidated current domestic relations statutes into Title 23 without making any changes. It passed the House 119/982, but failed to be considered in the Senate at the end of the session even though the Senate Judiciary Committee received dozens of calls urging Committee action in time for a floor vote. HB 2141 was supported by the Commission. HB 2385, the Family Support Bill, would have combined family support and interspousal property rights in one bill. One of the remaining EPA Implementation Package Bills, it was strongly supported by the Commission.

Also failing to pass was HB 1229, which would have further provided for division of proceeds of sale of property formerly held by husband and wife following divorce and would have prevented unjust enrichment from the sale.

EDUCATION

SB 506, Act 1982-188, establishes the State System of Higher Education from the present State Colleges and Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

Several bills were passed to provide financial assistance to students.

HB 1485, Act 1981-89, provides loan guarantees to parents of post secondary school students.

SB 1094, Act 1982-102, provides for an administrative local collection process in the Pennsylvania Higher Education Agency Act.

HB 1578, would amend the Higher Education Assistance Agency Act to permit the agency to issue bonds and make loans to graduates and undergraduate students and to provide additional assistance grants. Act 1982-330.

Three additional pieces of Education legislation are of interest: SB 1385, Act 1982-152, provides a one-time early retirement option for teachers. HB 1349, would provide tuition reimbursement for special education. Act 1982-316. SB 406, which would have provided high school seniors' names to armed service recruiters, was vetoed by the Governor.

EMPLOYMENT

HB 187, Act 1981-36, prohibits school districts from requiring employees to reside within the school districts in which they are employed.

Administrative Rule Report Number 4 of 1982 has taken effect. This provides fees for the examination of registered nurses and practical nurses.

ERA

Several bills of the original ERA Implementation Package have not yet been implemented. One such bill, HB 2385, is described under Domestic and Family Relations. Another bill, SB 138, also supported by the Commission, would forbid employment of men where employment of women is forbidden in the Liquor Code. This bill, which passed the Senate, would extend prohibition to all persons employed in places which serve liquor.

The Commission continues to monitor bills that are discriminatory.

HEALTH

SB 742, the Abortion Control Act, was vetoed by the Governor 12/23/81. A revised and amended version, SB 420, passed both houses and was approved by the Governor 6/11/82. Before its effective date, December 8, 1982, Act 1982-38 had already been challenged in federal court.

SB 361, Act 1981-168, provides reimbursement of covered major medical expenses provided by certified licensed nurse/midwives. No rate increase was requested and the Insurance Department issued Rules and Regulations to implement the Act effective June 6, 1982. This bill was strongly supported by the Commission.

HB 2061, Act 1982-328, would provide reimbursement by hospital planning corporations for birthing facilities used by certified nurse/midwives.

SB 671, Act 1982-321, provides that the appointment of members of the State Board of Nurse Examiners not be limited to persons nominated by nurses' organizations.

SB 838, which changed the definition of Home Health Agency and intermediate care facilities, was vetoed by the Governor.

Bills which did not pass:

HB 2235 would have established a DES Screening Program and provided health insurance coverage for it.

HB 391 would have provided a premarriage rubella immunity test.

SB 227 would have included provisions for treating alcoholics.

SB 1315 would have provided inspection and insurance for amusement rides and attractions for safety.

JUVENILE JUSTICE

SB 41, Act 1981-41, provides for the repeal of provisions relating to post conviction hearings for juveniles.

MISCELLANEOUS

SB 929, Act 1982-24, decreased the budget authorization for the Commission by $56,000 from the amount requested by the Governor.

HB 643, Act 1981-76, provides limited civil and criminal immunity to persons who donate food to charitable or religious organizations for distribution to needy persons as to the conditions of the food.

HB 950, Act 1982-235, would revise and codify Pennsylvania law relating to names and marks.

The Senate confirmed the Governor's appointment of Phyllis Beck to the Superior Court, his appointment of Marilyn Black to the Fish Commission. The Senate tabled his second appointment of Madeline Palladino to Commonwealth Court. She had been appointed in 1980 and failed election.

RAPE/DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

HB 1414 was amended into SB 79 and is Act 1982-157. This Act provides for a predictable funding source for domestic violence and rape crisis centers by increasing the fines of persons guilty of crimes and was strongly supported by the Commission.

SB 322, Act 1981-169, provides absolute confidentiality to records from counseling of sexual assault victims. Also strongly supported by the Commission.

SB 1151, Act 1982-234, provides minimum prison terms in aggravated assault cases committing persons over 65 and under 16.

Bills supported by the Commission which failed to pass were:

HB 1122, the Marital Rape Bill, which would have removed the exemption of husbands from the crime of rape of their wives.

SB 628, which would provide limited confidentiality in Domestic Violence Counseling.

SENIOR CITIZENS

SB 1126, Act 1982-56, increases eligibility under the property tax or rent rebate and inflation dividend and provides transportation assistance to Area Agencies on Aging.

Senior Citizen Bills that failed to pass were:

SB 319, which would have amended the Pennsylvania Constitution to increase certain retirement benefits. The Joint Resolution passed both Houses, but was defeated by the electorate on 11/2/81.

SB 1047, which would have provided protection from abuse for the elderly, died in the Senate Appropriation Committee.

SB 1588 and SB 1589, which would have provided revaluing loans to Senior Citizen Centers.

WELFARE REFORM

HB 726, Act 1982-76, provides decreases in general assistance and increases in aid for families with dependent children. The Act is in the process of being implemented.

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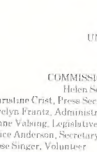
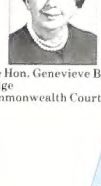
What They're Saying About the Commission

The Pennsylvania Commission for Women has grown (not budget or staff) in experience from its original beginnings in the 1960's. With the ratification by the voters of the State Equal Rights Amendment, the Commission's advocacy role extended considerably as the government agency contact for women who needed guidance and help in employment, dealing with domestic abuse, housing, credit and education to name just some of the problems and discrimination areas that still affect women. The Commission has developed a networking capability which greatly enhances their advocacy and assistance role. The Department of State relies on the Commission to utilize our election facts to analyze the status of women in politics. Other Departments ask and receive information concerning the status of women today. The Commission is the only such resource we have in Pennsylvania for a total view of where we were, where we are and where we are going. Long live the Commission!



Patricia A. Crawford
Executive Deputy
Secretary of the
Commonwealth



The Hon. Genevieve Blatt
Judge
Commonwealth Court

My hat is off to our Pennsylvania Commission for Women for the great job it does as an "advocate for women". Not only is it effective in its everyday work of making known the needs and the potential of Pennsylvania women, but its able staff is always ready to help advance the efforts of others along those lines as well.

I gratefully recall the help they provided me with a committee I had organized to show our Pennsylvania pride in the ten young women who made up the largest state group among the first women to be graduated from our National Service Academies. I know how much our committee valued the Commission's aid and encouragement!

I also admired the careful survey which the Commission made of our Pennsylvania Laws to find out if and where discrimination against women still existed, and their constructive work with our General Assembly to remove such discriminatory provisions from our statute books.

Besides all that, I continue to admire the way they keep all of us women up to date on what women are now publishing in Pennsylvania. It's a great story!

May the Commission's good work continue!

UNTIL WOMEN HAVE FULL AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AS CITIZENS

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
Dick Thornburgh, Governor

COMMISSION FOR WOMEN
Helen Seager, Director
Christine Crist, Press Secretary
Evelyn Frantz, Administrative Assistant
Anne Valsing, Legislative Analyst
Alice Anderson, Secretary
Rose Singer, Volunteer

The Director is appointed by the Governor to act as state government's advocate for women,

to develop and implement policies to insure that women receive equal treatment in all areas of life,

and to insure that the Equal Rights Amendment to the Pennsylvania Constitution is fully implemented,

and to cooperate with and enlist the support of appropriate agencies, both governmental and non-governmental, to insure that complaints of sex discrimination are vigorously pursued and corrected.

MEMBERS
Alma Jacobs, Montgomery, chair
Marlene Berman, York
Muriel Berman, Lehigh
Ruby Bowe, Allegheny
Rita Clark, Cambria
Mimi Ungar Coppersmith, Centre
Carol Coren, Bucks
Susan Hagen, Erie
David Johnston, Delaware
Helen Koschoff, Columbia
Jacinta Mann, Westmoreland
Harriet McGeehan, Luzerne
Margie McGregor, Allegheny
Jeanette Rehman, Northampton
Doris Smith, Philadelphia

The Governor appoints from 15 to 21 members and designates one member to chair the Commission. Members serve without salary and function in an advisory capacity to the Director.

PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION FOR WOMEN
Report on Work of the Year 1982
Including January-February 1983 WOMENEWS
Pennsylvania Commission for Women
Box 1323, Harrisburg, PA 17105

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